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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/720,349	11/25/2003 .	Kimihide Takahashi	Q78581	3898

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SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER	
LE, TUAN H	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/720,349	TAKAHASHI, KIMIHIDE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tuan H. Le	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *23 April 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *6-17* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-5, and 18* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *25 November 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to applicant's election of species filed April 23, 2007. Accordingly, Species I (Fig. 3) and claims 1-5 and 18 are elected by the applicant.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bianchi et al (USPub. 2003/0117499) and further in view of Herrod et al (USPat. 6,405,049). Herein after, Bianchi et al and Herrod et al are shortened as Bianchi and Herrod, respectively.

Regarding **claim 1**, Bianchi discloses a digital camera system (Bianchi, Fig. 1) comprising a digital camera (18) and a cradle unit (14), said digital camera (18) being capable of selecting one of modes including a data transfer mode for transferring image data to an external apparatus, (Bianchi, paragraph [0034], wherein camera 18 can transfer information to a computer via a cable) and an external display mode for

displaying the image data on external display means (40), (Bianchi, paragraph [0026], wherein camera 18 is in review mode when it is docked to cradle 14); said cradle unit (14) comprising a receiving portion (cradle body) on which said digital camera is received, a connection terminal (24) to be connected to said digital camera upon receiving said digital camera, a power-supply portion (34) for supplying an electric power to said digital camera (Bianchi, Fig. 1 and paragraph [0035], wherein camera receives its power from docking station 14), and an external-display output port (38) for outputting said image data to said external display means (Bianchi, Fig. 1 and paragraph [0033], wherein an audio/video port and a cable are disclosed).

However, Bianchi does not disclose

a data output port for transferring said image data to said external apparatus.

an operation-code generator provided in said cradle unit, said operation-code generator generating an operation code for operating said external display means; and

a transmitter provided in said cradle unit, said transmitter sending said operation code to said external display means in a wireless manner, and said operation code being sent so as to put said external display means in an external input condition, under which the image is able to be displayed, when said digital camera placed in said cradle unit selects said external display mode.

On the other hand, in the same field of endeavor, Herrod discloses

a data output port (for use with cable) for transferring said image data to said external apparatus,(Herrod, Fig. 1 and column 5 lines 40-42, wherein cradle 12 can transfer image data to a connected stand-alone computer).

an operation-code generator (30) provided in said cradle unit (12), said operation-code generator generating an operation code (control signal) for operating said external display means (10, television display), (Herrod, Fig. 1, Fig. 2a, column 6 lines 6-16 and lines 30-32, wherein cradle 12 transfers control signal to television display 10);

a transmitter (42) provided in said cradle unit (12), said transmitter sending said operation code to said external display means (television display 10) in a wireless manner (infrared IRDA), (Herrod, column 6 lines11-15 and column 7 lines 1-4, wherein infrared communication is established between cradle 12 and television display 10), and said operation code (control signal) being sent so as to put said external display means (television display 10) in an external input condition, under which the image is able to be displayed, when said digital camera placed in said cradle unit selects said external display mode.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan to implement the data output port as described by Herrod into the digital system as described by Bianchi such that the cradle is connected to a computer because such implementation increases versatility for the cradle. Furthermore, it would have been obvious to an artisan to incorporate the operation-code generator and transmitter as described by Herrod into the digital system as described by Bianchi in order to remotely control the television under the external input condition in an infrared manner because such incorporation not only eliminates the burden to physically touch control buttons of the TV but also results

in a simple circuit for infrared transmission which lowers product costs and power consumption.

Regarding **claim 18**, Bianchi discloses a cradle unit for a digital camera (Bianchi, Fig. 1), said digital camera (18) being capable of selecting one of modes including a data transfer mode for transferring image data to an external apparatus (Bianchi, paragraph [0034], wherein camera 18 can transfer information to a computer via a cable) and an external- display mode for displaying the image data on external display means (40), (Bianchi, paragraph [0026], wherein camera 18 is in review mode when it is docked to cradle 14), said cradle unit (14) comprising:

a receiving portion (cradle body 14) for receiving said digital camera (18);

a connection terminal (24) to be connected to said digital camera (18);

a power-supply portion (34) for supplying an electric power to said digital camera, (Bianchi, Fig. 1 and paragraph [0035], wherein camera receives its power from docking station 14);

an external-display output port (38) for outputting said image data to said external display means (TV 40), (Bianchi, Fig. 1 and paragraph [0033], wherein an audio/video port and a cable are disclosed);

However, Bianchi does not disclose

a data output port for transferring said image data to said external apparatus;

an operation-code generator for generating an operation code for operating said external display means; and

a transmitter for sending said operation code to said external display means in a wireless manner, said operation code being sent so as to put said external display means in an external input condition, under which the image is able to be displayed, when said digital camera placed in said receiving portion is set to the external display mode.

On the other hand, in the same field of endeavor, Herrod discloses

a data output port (for use with cable) for transferring said image data to said external apparatus,(Herrod, Fig. 1 and column 5 lines 40-42, wherein cradle 12 can transfer image data to a connected stand-alone computer).

an operation-code generator (30) for generating an operation code (control signal) for operating said external display means (10, television display), (Herrod, Fig. 1, Fig. 2a, column 6 lines 6-16 and lines 30-32, wherein cradle 12 transfers control signal to television display 10);

a transmitter (42) for sending said operation code to said external display means (television display 10) in a wireless manner (infrared IRDA), (Herrod, column 6 lines11-15 and column 7 lines 1-4, wherein infrared communication is established between cradle 12 and television display 10), said operation code (control signal) being sent so as to put said external display means (television display 10) in an external input condition, under which the image is able to be displayed, when said digital camera placed in said cradle unit selects said external display mode.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan to implement the data output port as described by Herrod into the digital system as described by Bianchi such that

the cradle is connected to a computer because such implementation increases versatility for the cradle. Furthermore, it would have been obvious to an artisan to incorporate the operation-code generator and transmitter as described by Herrod into the digital system as described by Bianchi in order to remotely control the television under the external input condition in an infrared manner because such incorporation not only eliminates the burden to physically touch control buttons of the TV but also results in a simple circuit for infrared transmission which lowers product costs and power consumption.

Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bianchi et al (USPub. 2003/0117499) and further in view of Herrod et al (USPat. 6,405,049) and Kuroiwa et al (USPat. 5,715,020). Herein after, Bianchi et al and Herrod et al and Kuroiwa et al are shortened as Bianchi, Herrod, and Kuroiwa respectively.

Regarding **claim 2**, Bianchi and Herrod teach the system of claim 1.

However, Bianchi and Herrod do not teach that said operation-code generator generates said operation code as an analog signal.

On the other hand, in the same endeavor, Kuroiwa teaches an operation-code generator (811,812,815) generates said operation code as an analog signal (Kuroiwa, Fig. 1 and Fig. 4, wherein TV remote control unit 601 generates analog signal).

Therefore it would have been obvious to an artisan to implement the code generator as described by Kuroiwa into the digital camera system as described by

Bianchi and Herrod in order to remotely control a TV because such implementation eliminate the burden of physically touching control buttons on the TV.

As for **claim 3**, Bianchi, Herrod, and Kuroiwa teach the system of claim 2. Furthermore, Kuroiwa discloses said transmitter comprises:

a transparent cover (inherent part of a TV remote control system) fitted to said cradle unit ; and

a light emitting element (816) disposed inside said transparent cover, said light emitting element being connected to said operation-code generator (811,812,815) to emit an infrared signal in accordance with the analog signal of said operation code, (Kuroiwa, Fig. 4).

As for **claim 4**, Bianchi, Herrod, and Kuroiwa teach the system of claim 3. Furthermore, Kuroiwa discloses said light emitting element (816) is an infrared light emitting diode, (Kuroiwa, Fig. 4 and column 11 line 54, wherein an infrared light-emitting diode is used).

As for **claim 5**, Bianchi, Herrod, and Kuroiwa teach the system of claim 3. Furthermore, Kuroiwa discloses said external display means is one of a TV monitor, a projector and a liquid crystal display, (Kuroiwa, Fig. 4, wherein a TV receives signal form the infrared light-emitting diode).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Caspe et al (USPub 2003/0160890) discloses a system having a battery powered camera and a docking station, wherein a docking station connector for receiving camera signal and sending it to a television.

Fujioka (USPat. 6,297,802) discloses a wireless communication in which infrared signal is used.

Yuen et al (USPat. 5,475,382) discloses a remote control mounting stand.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan H. Le whose telephone number is (571) 270-1130. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30-5:00 F 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David L. Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tuan Le/
7/9/07

DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER